



Spiritual disease is a topic that we don't often hear about.

OK... I've never read or heard it spoken about other than in the Bible, which seems rather odd considering

1. it involves commands given by God that most Christians aren't adhering to

AND

2. by ignoring these commands it causes an adverse affect on our spiritual, mental, emotional and physical health... even leading to early death and spiritual death!

Let's see what God said to Moses about dealing with the inhabitants of the Promised Land... **“When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ² and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. ³ Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. ⁴ For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. ⁵ But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire. ⁹ Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; ¹⁰ and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them.”** Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 9-10 NKJV

Although Joshua killed 33 kings, and destroyed many cities and regions full of people, he didn't complete God's command. Because of this failure, God said those that remained would be a thorn in their sides to test and prove their obedience to God. (Numbers 33:55-56; Joshua 23:13; Judges 2:3) As we know by reading their history, this decision by the Israelites didn't work out too well, as they continually found themselves spiritually infected by the pagan peoples who remained!

And as we just read what God promised in **Deuteronomy 7:4, 10**, He had no choice but to destroy them when they became spiritually diseased. He has no choice with us today either... He gave His Word concerning this matter! It may be an old Word but God doesn't go back on His Word!

Now some of you are saying, “But Al, all that stuff pertained to the Israelites, not Christians and besides, that's all Old Testament stuff. God changed the rules in the New Testament. We're supposed to love everyone and bring them to Christ now.”

Don't you find it interesting that God insisted that the inhabitants of the Promised Land be destroyed rather than having the Israelites attempt to convert them? Wouldn't that have been a more loving way? But God knows what usually happens when righteous people inter-mingle, inter-marry, or yolk themselves with those that serve other gods or those who are immoral... we become exposed to spiritual disease. For instance... if you have a room full of 100 healthy people and someone with the flu comes in and “hangs out” with everyone. Does the 100 infect the 1 with health or does the 1 eventually infect the 100 with disease? Statistics say that some will die of the flu!



People mistakenly misinterpret and compromise with what God says regarding love and how to deal with the spiritually infected. Failure to do as God commands can keep people spiritually diseased that you want to help, rather than healing them. Also spreads the disease to others including to you!

Does God have anything to say in the New Testament regarding the handling of non-believers in Jesus as their Savior and the deliberately immoral?

Jesus said, “Go (a command) therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28: 19-20 NKJV

Well that’s pretty straight forward isn’t it? Yet how many blindly or deliberately overlook the underlined part in v 20?

“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you (Christians) are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one (the immoral) to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven (sin/corruption) leavens the whole lump (group)? ⁷ Therefore purge out (clear out the immoral people from your life and gatherings) the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with (a command) anyone named a brother (Christians), who is sexually immoral (fornication, adultery, homosexuality, incest, pedophilia, bestiality, pornography), or covetous, or an idolater (false gods, false religions, hero-worship, things of the world, self), or a reviler (use abusive language), or a drunkard (includes recreational drug/cigarette addiction use), or an extortioner (control, manipulation, coercion, threats, corruption, misuse of power)—not even to eat with such a person. ¹² For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? ¹³ But those who are outside God judges. Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.” ” (a command) 1 Cor. 5:4-7; 11-13 NKJV

“Do not keep company with those who have not faith (a command): for what is there in common between righteousness and evil, or between light and dark?” 2 Corinthians 6:14 BIBE

Paul is giving a command to remove immoral people from our lives. This is to make them realize what they are doing is unacceptable to God and to Christians. Hopefully once they realize this they will repent and return to salvation before its too late. Also in expelling them it prevents their immorality from infecting righteous Christians. Also shows non-Christians looking at us from the outside, that everything and anything people do is not OK. We must have contact with non-believers to bring them the truth of the Gospel in order to convert them and set them free, but we don’t fellowship with them or especially with those calling themselves Christian and yet remain deliberately immoral/evil. We are commanded to put them all away from us!

Here’s an excerpt with some alarming statistics from an article at www.christianpost.com: “The majority of Protestants and evangelicals believe that good people and people of other religions can go to heaven, according to author David Campbell. Campbell, who co-wrote American Grace, How Religion Divides and Unites Us, contends that surveys of 3,000 Americans, used to write the book, show that American people of faith, though devout, are very tolerant. So much so that most believers also believe that good people, despite their religious affiliation, can go to heaven.

Among the faiths, 83 percent of evangelical Protestants agreed that good people of other religions can go to heaven. Ninety percent of black Protestants also believe good people can go to heaven. When prodded further, more than half – 54 percent – of evangelical Protestants said yes, people of religions other than Christianity can go to heaven. Sixty-two percent of black Protestants agreed with the statement. Campbell, an expert of religion, politics and public policy, explained at a Thursday discussion of his book that the numbers can be explained with the “Aunt Susan” theory. Aunt Susan, he said, is the nice family member who is well-loved and is an all around do-gooder. “You know that if anyone is destined to go to heaven, it’s Aunt Susan,” described Campbell. However, Aunt Susan is of another religion. Rather than condemn that person to a lost eternity, Campbell said, most American believers choose instead to believe that that person is heaven-bound. He also shared that knowing an Aunt Susan opens believers up to other faiths. “You become warmer not only to people of that group, but to people of other groups,” Campbell contended. Simply put, interlocking social networks allows believers to accept tenants of other faiths.”

We can see how deep and far the infection has spread among people who refuse to follow God’s commands when dealing with the immoral and the unsaved. This is what the health experts would call a global pandemic (virulent disease)!

A few years ago I was a leader and a Board Director at a church that I thought was above such statistics and was uncompromising. Yet, I became aware of people there who were fornicators and drug addicts who wouldn’t give up their lifestyle. Some were even allowed by the pastor and the President of the Board to be worship leaders! These and other leaders there accepted them “in love” they said. I pointed out to the pastor and Board President (married couple) in private meetings that they were in violation of God’s command in how to deal with deliberately immoral people in the church. In each of the meetings they responded in anger and resentment, arguing that if they kicked all the sinners out of the church there’d be no one left, as we all sin! (Between each meeting they should have prayed and researched God’s Word to examine their doctrine for distortions and then repent and done God’s will.) At the last meeting I was kicked out of the church! Honestly... I was commanded to leave the building! A little backwards from the teaching we just studied, however, it only expedited what would have been my personal decision to leave in obedience to God and for my own health. My staying there would also give people the impression that I (and Jesus) accepted such activities for Christians. Same thing happened to Rhoda at a different church she attended years ago. When she confronted the pastor and his wife they said, “Why should we listen to you?” She left.

“If people are causing divisions among you, give a first and second warning. After that, have nothing more to do with them. For people like that have turned away from the truth, and their own sins condemn them.” Titus 3: 10-11 NLT

Amazing how the majority of Christians in the world refuse to follow straight-forward, God commanded instructions, from just one book, especially when the facts are pointed out to them! There will be an accounting one day for each of us! (Matthew 7:21-24)

There’s much more that can be covered on spiritual disease and how it trickles down to infect our physical, emotional and mental health, opens us up to evil spirits and can bring us to early death and spiritual death. Don’t get caught in this devil’s trap. Stay off the road to perdition! Steer yourself and teach others to travel on God’s road of obedience to a full life of divine health!